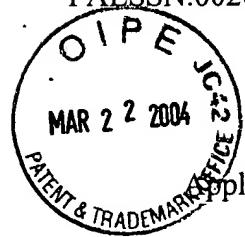


PALSSN.002C1

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

March 19, 2004
(Date)

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Final Office Communication mailed November 20, 2003 for the above-referenced patent application. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for reviewing the instant application. A request for continuing examination (RCE) is enclosed herewith.

Amendments to the Specification can be found on Page 2.

Amendments to the Claims can be found beginning on Page 3.

Appl. No. : 09/923,870
Filed : August 6, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, at line 6, please replace the sentence following “Related Applications” with the following sentence:

“This application is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 09/243,022, filed February 2, 1999.”